

LITERATURE. REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

LIFE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS, WITH A SECRET HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY. By E. A. Pollard. Issued by subscription by the National Publishing Company.

The title of this work excites expectations which are scarcely fulfilled in the perusal. Not only is Mr. Pollard's information far more limited than he would have us believe, but he is very evidently not the person to write such a work as it ought to be written. His position as a journalist in Richmond undoubtedly gave him opportunities for gaining information on various points that were not enjoyed by every one, but the important mysteries of the Jeff. Davis Government were apparently as carefully hidden from him as from other outsiders. As far as his revelations go, therefore, Mr. Pollard's work is of little value, and the value that it has is seriously diminished by the vindictive strain in which it is written, and by the well-known personal dislike of the author for the subject of his narrative. Throughout the work is breathed an intense admiration for the "lost cause," and an equally intense hatred for Jefferson Davis, upon whose shoulders is laid the whole blame for the failure of the Confederate army. The apparent fairness of the introductory sketch of Davis only makes the vindictive bitterness of the latter portions more apparent; and yet, on examination, it will be found that the eulogistic tone adopted in the early part of the narrative is mainly in comparing Davis with his Northern contemporaries in Congress. Mr. Pollard's style is that of a fire-eating Southern journalist, and it is consequently distinguished by a good many big words and a good deal of swagger and bombance. The real value of the work is in the fact that it gives us a criticism of the Jeff. Davis Government from a Southern standpoint. It is a contribution to the history of the war yet to be written, and it is worth neither more nor less than the majority of the works that have been hitherto written on the subject of the great struggle.

THE SUBJECTION OF WOMEN. By John Stuart Mill. Received from D. Ashmead.

Mr. Mill is one of the few writers on the subject of women's rights and wrongs who is worth perusing, or who has any ideas on the subject that commend themselves to impartial thinkers of either sex as worthy of consideration. There is no doubt that the women's rights movement is looked upon as a huge burlesque by the majority of women, even more than by men. The absurd and incoherent arguments and vituperations of most of its champions, their illogical and impractical ideas, and their aping of the worst of masculine manners, has not only brought their cause into ridicule, but it has lost them the support of many men who most warmly sympathize with the real disabilities under which women labor. It is certain that women are placed at a disadvantage in many particulars where they ought to be the equals of men; their wages are, as a rule, disgracefully low, and respectable work hard to obtain. In many, if not all of the United States, not to mention England and the rest of Europe, the laws with regard to women, and especially married women, holding property are not equitable, and ought to be reformed. It is certain, however, that the majority of women do not feel their subjection, they do not understand that they are enslaved; and so long as they are obtuse on this point, Anna Dickinson may declaim, Miss Susan Anthony may expostulate, and John Stuart Mill reason without producing any very great effect towards placing men and women on an equality in all the relations of life. The great fault of the work under consideration is that Mr. Mill has allowed himself too often to fall into the loose, vituperative style that is so common when discussing this subject. The work is worth reading, however, as an exposition of the rights of women by the ablest champion of the sex that has taken up arms for them.

From Turner Brothers & Co. we have received "The Adventures of Philip" and "A Shabby Genteel Story," by W. M. Thackeray. These two stories, bound in one volume, complete the "Household Edition" of Thackeray's works as originally announced by Fields, Osgood & Co. Reading Thackeray is something like eating olives—an acquired taste with a great many persons; and if his popularity has not been as great as that of some of his contemporaries, it is likely to be more lasting. A complete and low-priced edition of his works has long been called for by his admirers, but the call has never been replied to until Fields, Osgood & Co. undertook the publication of this attractive edition, which they announce will now be extended to include all of Thackeray's known writings. "The Shabby Genteel Story" is an unfinished work of Thackeray's, and as several of his characters are introduced in "The Adventures of Philip," the publishers have judiciously prefixed it to that novel in the volume before us.

From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Nora Brady's Vow" and "Mona the Vestal," by Mrs. Anna H. Dorsey. The first of these is an interesting story of Irish life and character of the present day, and the second is a successful attempt to give a view of the ancient Irish civilization at the time of the introduction of Christianity. The story is itself entertaining, and besides its value as a work of fiction, it is interesting as giving an illustration of the ancient Irish customs, religious and civil.

From Turner Brothers & Co. we have received "The Hollands," by Virginia F. Townsend. Published by Loring, Boston. This interesting story originally appeared as a serial in Arthur's Home Magazine, where it excited much attention. Those who perused it while going through the pages of the magazine will doubtless be glad to possess it for a second reading in its completed form.

E. H. Butler & Co. send us "An Ameri-

can Woman in Europe," by Mrs. S. R. Urbino. This is a lively journal of experiences during a sojourn of two years and a half in Germany, France, and Switzerland. Mrs. Urbino does not tell anything very new about European sights and scenes, but her journal is written in a pleasant vein, and it contains much everyday information that will be appreciated by the vast majority of travellers.

From Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger we have received a work on "Rhetoric," by Rev. E. O. Haven, D. D., LL. D., President of the University of Michigan. This is a textbook for schools and colleges, which has resulted from the author's own experiences as a teacher. It is intended to give the student a perspicacious presentation of the theory of rhetoric, with illustrations and directions how to profit by it. The work appears to be well adapted for the purpose intended.

"Famous London Merchants," by H. R. Fox Bourne, is a series of sketches for boy readers of thirteen famous London merchants, from Richard Whittington to George Peabody.

From T. Ellwood Zell, Nos. 17 and 19 South Sixth street, we have received Nos. 31 and 32 of "Zell's Popular Encyclopedia," which is brought down to the title "Bee."

From Jenkins & Atkinson, Wilmington, Del., we have received a copy of the "Wilmington City Directory" for 1869-70.

THE PRINCE AND THE ACTRESS.

A Romantic Tale of Courtship.

The announcement of the approaching recognition by the Imperial family of Austria of the beautiful Mlle Mendel, the actress, of Augsburg, as a new bride, has excited the theatrical ambition of the ladies of the Paris boulevards. The visit about to be made by the Empress Elizabeth to the beautiful castle of Lake Starnberg, where the newly-married couple reside, has become the talk of every *feuilleton* in Europe. They say in the *colloques* here that her Austrian Majesty was the great promoter of the marriage, the story connected with her brother's love and courtship being romantic enough to excite the strongest interest in her mind and womanly heart, and making it forgetful of all distinction of rank when an equal share of love and delicacy had been displayed by both the lovers. Madlle Mendel, who had preserved her reputation unscathed amid all the perils and temptations of a theatrical life, is considered as the most lovely woman in Germany; her beauty being of the true German type, of the peculiar fairness held in no other country—golden hair in soft silky masses, without the smallest tinge of Auburn—pure gold—unburnished; a complexion delicate as driven pearl, and a pair of eyes pale pink, scarcely ever seen in nature and almost impossible to produce by artificial means; lips of the deepest carmine; teeth small and exquisitely white, and eyebrows of the darkest brown, with eyes of the deepest blue. All this made such an impression on the heart of Duke Louis, that from the moment he first beheld her at the Munich Theatre he vowed himself to the worship of this one idol. But Madlle Mendel was valiant in her defence of her reputation, and was of the responsibility incurred by the possession of great talent, she resisted every overture, even that of marriage, on the part of the Duke, well knowing that it was out of his power to contract any alliance of the kind, as much as was expected of him by his family. At that time Madlle Mendel was in the habit of wearing a velvet collar with a clasp ornamented by a single pearl of great value, which had been presented to her by the King of Saxony, and in order to quell all talk of a divorce in the bosom of her royal admirer, she declared to him one day that she had made a vow to bestow her heart and hand on him alone who could match this single pearl with as many others as would form the whole necklace. This declaration was made laughingly, for the fair creature knew well enough the Duke, living fully up to his income, which was but mediocre for his rank, could never accomplish this herculean task, and she laughed more merrily still when she beheld the discomfited expression of countenance at the announcement she had made. But soon afterwards she heard that the Duke had sold his horses and broken up his establishment—gone to live in the strictest retirement in a small cottage belonging to his brother's park.

One very night she perceived the velvet band upon her neck, she found, to her great surprise, that a second pearl had been added to the clasp. She knew well enough whence it came, and smiled sadly at the loss of labor she had bestowed in vain. By degrees the velvet covered with pearls, all of them as fine as the one bestowed by the King of Saxony, until one evening great was the rumor in Augsburg, that the fair Mendel had been robbed while on the stage, divested of all ornaments, in the presence of the audience, and her dressing-room had been entered, and the velvet collar with its row of priceless pearls had disappeared from the toilet-table. The event was so terrible, her nerves so shaken, that in spite of the assurance of the Chief Police Magistrate, who happened to be in the theatre at the moment, that he was sure to find the thief in a very short time, for he had the clue already, poor Madlle Mendel was so overcome by grief that she never failed her next day, returning to the stage not a word could she remember of her part! The audience waited for some time in astonishment at the silence maintained by the actress; the actress gazed at the audience in piteous embarrassment, until, by a sudden inspiration, and almost mechanically indeed, she remembered that she had the rehearsal copy of the play in the pocket of her apron. She drew it forth without hesitation, and began to read from it with the greatest self-possession imaginable. At length the audience knew not whether to laugh or be angry, but presently memory, pathos, forgetfulness of all but her art, had returned to Madlle Mendel, and in the utterance of one of the most impassioned sentiments of her speech she flung the rehearsal copy into the orchestra, and went on with her part without pause or hesitation. The applause of the audience was so tremendous that one of the witnesses to the scene has told us that the great monster chandelier in the centre of the roof swung to and fro with the vibration. But on her return to her dressing-room the excitement proved too much, and she fainted away. On coming back to consciousness it was to find Duke Louis at her feet, and the head commissioner standing by her side, bidding her take courage, for the pearls had been found. "Where are they?" exclaimed she. "Are you sure that none are missing? Have none been stolen?" Duke Louis then clasped round her neck the string of pearls, complete at last, no longer seen on to the velvet band, but strung with symmetry and fastened with a diamond clasp. What more could be done by the devoted lover? He had spared neither pains nor sacrifice to attain his end, and Madlle Mendel consented to become his wife. The Empress of Austria appears to have been much moved by the story, and suggested the nomination of the bride elect to the title of Baroness de Wallerse, which thus equalized the rank of the fiancée, and enabled her to be received as an equal. They live the most retired life possible in their little chateau on Lake Starnberg, where the Empress of Austria is about to visit them. They say that the Duchess Louise of Bavaria never puts off night or day the necklace of pearls, the clasp of which she has had riveted to her neck, and that in consequence of this peculiarity she is known all through the country round by the name of the Fairy Perline, from the old German tale of the Magic Pearl.

THE MONTHS OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

INSPECTION OF THE BALIZE—DREDGING OF THE SANDBARS.

The Chamber of Commerce of New Orleans recently sent a deputation to the Balize to see which one of the passes could best serve the needs of commerce. The following account of the affairs is taken from the New Orleans Times:— "The vexed question as to which of the passes into which the river separates at its mouth has the deepest water, is one about which the mercantile public of this city has been for some time divided. Southwest Pass, as every one knows, is the channel that has been, for many years past, used by pilots and tow-boat companies, and for which their preference is still strongly shown. The other two passes, the Grand and the Wildcat, are shorter for the main highway of commerce, and as affording still greater advantage in the way of easterly winds, was the one selected by the United States Government for improvement. To clear out this pass and deepening it from the Balize to the Gulf, had been the work of the Essayons for some months past, and the prosecution of this work it was contended had been successful. It was to verify these statements, and ascertain whether the Grand Pass was really deeper, or had been merely cleared out by the Essayons, that the deputation was sent. "To assist them in settling this question, Collector Casey on Wednesday tendered to the deputation a small boat, and invited them to examine the revenue cutter Wildcat, to examine into the matter themselves. "The Wildcat, having cast off from the wharf at 9:30 o'clock on Thursday morning, glided down the river, stopping momentarily at quarantine and at the fort upon the western side. "On arriving at the Southwest Pass soundings were taken. "These soundings showed fourteen feet for the Grand Pass, and only twelve for the Wildcat, for 15 1/2 and so on. This much having been ascertained, and a glimpse of the waste of waters outside of the bar having been taken, Captain Freeman cast anchor. "The Grand Pass next morning the soundings of the night previous were repeated, and proved to be substantially the same as when first taken. The shoalest water found was twelve feet, but this, as it was contended and shown, was not in the channel of the river. The soundings of the morning and previous were considered, no test, as the Wildcat hugged very closely the shore at the time they were made. "The cutter now passed out six miles beyond land, until the muddy current appeared as a thin stratum upon the waters of the Gulf, until the deep water beyond could be seen through the yellow stratum above. "Steaming on in this way, the distant observatory was seen, which marked what was once Balize, and what was the most flourishing town that ever sprung up along the mouth of the river. Balize decayed and settled down to the discovery of the mouth of the river by the Spaniards, and its first inhabitants doubtless dreamed that it was destined to become the great city of the Mississippi Valley. The houses were built on the high ground, and the streets were paved with a level, with a street planted with trees, with an esplanade a mile long, and had its church, school-house, hotel, salaried teacher and physician. The pilots were prosperous, and many of the houses were built of brick, and were well constructed, and the place, for its sea breezes and bathing, was no inconsiderable resort in summer. What caused its destruction was a change in the depth of Northeast Pass, which occurred a little before the cutter was in the entrance to the river commenced to grow more and more shoal with each year, until at the present time, as was ascertained a week ago by actual experiment, there is not a depth of eight feet.

Commerce having no longer any use for Northeast Pass, and preferring the Southeast Pass, the pilots, of course, had to go where they could find employment. The town soon became completely abandoned. At the present time there is not a single one of the former inhabitants remaining in the town, two or three stories high, a large sail loft, and the observatory are left standing, but beyond this there is not a single vestige of the beautiful town that formerly existed there. Even the levees which surrounded the place have been washed away and have disappeared, and what was once a city, as now seen, differs but little from the marsh upon which the buildings had been constructed.

The first attempt to deepen the passes was made in 1858 by Captain Howe, who contracted for an appropriation of \$30,000 for this purpose, and whose failure at Northeast Pass resulted in the ruin to the Balize as above described. The plan then adopted was that of scooping up the mud at the bottom of the river and carrying it to the Gulf, and the plan of dumping the mud outside of the channel. It hardly need be said that this attempt proved an absolute failure. The contract was next taken hold of by Craig & Co., and by Stark & Co., who, with an appropriation of \$500,000, agreed to secure the river to a depth of twenty feet, and to drive a mile of piles. This plan was to drive piling upon either side of what was destined to be the channel, and through the jetties thus made to force the current. The plan was to be completed in the month of September, and to drive a mile of piles. The attempt was again abandoned, in consequence of the fact that the first storm loosened the piles, and they were floated away. This was in 1856. In 1858 the same work was contracted for, and with the use of a scraper, to loosen the clods or mud lumps. In 1857 the contract was taken hold of by Mr. Wiggins, who accomplished nothing, not even the drawing of \$75,000. The Essayons now built at the Atlantic Works, at Boston, at a cost of \$225,000, in the spring of 1857, a cutter to be used in the operations of \$75,000, \$250,000, and since last September has been at work at the Pass a l'Ouverture.

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The learned Blacksmith and American philanthropist has for several years occupied the position of consul at Birmingham on a salary of \$1500, out of which he has had to pay office rent, and a cost of \$225,000, in the spring of 1857, a cutter to be used in the operations of \$75,000, \$250,000, and since last September has been at work at the Pass a l'Ouverture.

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